THE TENNESSEE FARMER.

How much more delightful to an undebauched mind is the task of making improvements on the earth than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it, by the most uninterrupted career of conquests."—WASHINGTON.

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TERMS.

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COMMUNICATION.

AN AGRICULTURAL CONVENTION.

Mr. Editor:

I propose saying a few words, through the medium of your paper upon the propriety of the citizens of Tennessee holding an Agricultural Convention at such time and place as may hereafter be agreed upon, to be composed of practical farmers and friends to the cause. It does seem to me, Mr. Editor, that this measure would be highly judicious, and greatly redound to the permanent good of the Agricultural interests of the State.

Conventions have always been found highly conducive to the consummation of the ends of whatever profession has adopted them. Almost every other profession, but Agriculture, has been profited by means of conventions, and why should that longer lag behind? Do we not see the proprietors of the Printing Press, in almost every State in the Union, assembling to deliberate upon the means of improving and advancing the interests of their craft? Do we not see the Physicians and the Lawyers each holding conventions to investigate and explore the mysteries of their respective professions? Do we not see the Literati, too, associated in convention, that they may the more effectually shed the lights of science upon the community at large? And finally, do we not see the politicians assembling in solemn conclave, to devise the means of promoting the success and aggrandizement of their party? In short, every thing that has been achieved, of importance, has been done by association. But as yet there has been no general agricultural effort of this character in Tennessee. Hence our present deficiency in agricultural knowledge. It is time for us to arouse from our apathy. Why should we hesitate longer?

The detalis of my plan for the proposed convention are as follows, viz:

Let the delegates be composed of practical farmers and friends to the cause, from every part of the State, that is, from every principal town; and every civil district besides, to appoint as many delegates as they may see proper. I would, however, suggest that the number appointed should not be less than six at any place. My reason for having so many delegates appointed is to secure a respectable representation, as but comparatively few of the number appointed will probably attend.

I suggest the first Monday in February next, as a suitable time for the delegates to meet, and propose the town of Murfreesboro', in the county of Rutherford, as a proper place to hold the Convention. I make the last proposition, on account of its central position?—The towns will have to take the the lead in appointing delegates. They should in every case, have their proceedings published.

Shall we have the Convention or not? Let the Press speak out on this subject. What say you, Mr. Editor, on this subject? And

what say the Editors of the different newspaper establishments in Jonesborough, Knoxville, Murfreesborough, Gallatin, Nashville, Columbia, Jackson, Memphis, and the other towns in Tennessee at which there are newspaper establishments? Let us hear from you all soon. A FARMER.

Wilson county, Tenn., Aug. 29, 1838.

We heartily advocate the adoption of the measure proposed above; and as our agriculture so urgently needs some united action in its behalf—some public recognition of its vital and paramount importance to give it its proper prominence in the eyes of our whole population, may we not hope to see this proposition adopted and acted on by general consent.—As our correspondent asks "Why should we hesitate longer?" Are we not indeed, emphatically *hesitating* when we are doing nothing collectively or politically for the interests of agriculture in our State, and while we see other States carrying out the very measure now proposed—whose rich results invite us loudly to similar action. We respectfully request an expression of opinion on this subject, from the periodical presses in this State—from our agricultural societies which may hold meetings this Fall—and from individuals throughout the State—who are invited to communicate their sentiments through the medium of the Tennessee Farmer.

ED. TENN. FAR.

On Orchard Grass—Manner of Cultivation—securing the seeds—Quantity sown—Season and mode—Causes of Failure—Product and value for pasturage and hay—its nutritive qualities and superiority over timothy, both when green and dry.

BY LOYD JONES, ESQ.

Dear Sir: I have cultivated orchard grass for five and twenty years. My crops failed from the bad quality of the seeds, until they were secured by myself. When they are in the state at which they can be shaken from the heads, the stems are cut by a skilful cradler just above the under grass. After some practice, he is enabled to catch with his left hand the portions taken by the cradle, and to place them regularly as he advances. They are immediately bound in sheaves large as a man's leg. Double swarths are afterwards mown with a naked scythe, to remove the under grass, and to leave at proper distances throughout the field, openings upon which the sheaves are shocked. They remain in this state from eight to ten days, until sufficiently dry to be carried to the barn, where they are forthwith threshed to guard against heating, the great source of injury to the seeds of this valuable crop. The usual manner of securing them, by putting the sheaves into the mow is, I am satisfied, the most effectual mode to destroy the principle of vegetation, as they can rarely be so treated without being mow-burned.

After having been threshed, they should be strewed upon the barn floor—occasionally stirred if the quantity be large, during eight or ten days, until they are perfectly dry—without this precaution they would inevitably be heated.

The under grass should all be mown for hay as soon as possible, after the seeds have been harvested. If it be allowed to stand but for a few days, it looses its nutritive properties,—in fact dies, after having lost the heads. The hay thus made, and properly secured, although necessarily harsh from having been allowed to pass the stage of its growth when most succulent and nutritious, I have found good fodder, for both horses and neat cattle.

The product of seeds varies from ten to twenty bushels per acre. I have had in a very favorable season, twenty bushels upon land which would not have afforded, I think, ten of wheat. The product of this, as of all crops, depends much, of course, upon the season, and the preparation of the land. The crop to which I advert, was purposely grown upon a poor soil, to show the excellence of the plant, and the fallacy of the assertion, that it required very rich land.

I sow from eight to ten quarts of clover seeds, and a bushel of orchard grass seeds per acre in February, upon wheat or rye land. I should prefer their being sown with oats or barley, as the seeds could be covered more regularly with the harrow, and their vegetation would be secured. I do not apprehend injury from frost in early sowing, but I dread the effects of drought from late. I have never suffered from early, but have generally had cause to regret the evils of late sowing.

I consider orchard grass the best herbage for pasturage upon *upland*—for hay it certainly cannot be excelled.—*Cabinet.*

Montgomery co., Pa.

Prevention of Botts in Horses.—An eminent farmer of Columbia county New York, "who has never less than 20 or 30 horses," once stated to me, that "he always gave each horse a small portion of ashes twice a week, and never had a case of bots in his life.

A Farmer.

A CHAPTER OF VALUABLE RECEIPTS.

Cholic in Horses.—Horses that are afflicted with cholic, may be speedily relieved by drenching them with about a quart of common salt and water, made as strong of the salt as possible. It will also afford relief in cases of the botts, and the symptoms of the two diseases are often so similar, that it is not easy to distinguish them. It is always safest to avoid the administration of medicines of the qualities and powers of which we are ignorant.—*Farmer's Cabinet.*

Horen Cattle.—A very simple remeny for relieving cattle that have eaten too much succulent food, consists in making a band of straw, and putting it in the animal's mouth, and passing the ends up over the head, and making it fast behind the horns. The animal will immediately begin to *chew* the band in order to remove it, and, this process going on, will soon bring up the cud from the first stomach, and will give relief, provided the animal is kept in motion, and the disease has not advanced too far to be curable by simple means. This plan has often been resorted to with success, though it is believed it is not generally known.—*Ib.*

Burdon's excellent ointment.—Yellow rosin the size of a hen's egg, to be melted in an earthen pot, over a slow fire, to which add the same quantity of bees-wax. When melted add half a pound of hog's lard, and when that is dissolved, add 5 oz. honey and 1-2 lb. of common turpentine, and keep gently boiling a few minutes, stirring all the time.—Take it off the fire, and when it has cooled a little, stir into it 2 oz Virdigris finely powdered, then give the whole a few minutes gentle boiling, and pour through a seive for use.

Nothing takes fire out of a burn or scald in human flesh, so soon as this ointment; it is equally good for cuts and bruises and putrifying sores, and might be denominated with propriety, *the universal remedy.*

Farmer's Cabinet.

Mildew on the Gooseberry.—In February we had the ground about our gooseberry bushes well saturated with strong pickle, and our gooseberries are perfectly free from mildew for the first time in twelve years. We beg here to observe, that we err here, as in the most other kinds of fruit, in esteeming the *largest* as the *best* varieties. The large gooseberry has generally a thick tough skin, while the best, and they are generally of a medium size, have a smooth thin skin, indicative also, of good flavor.—*Cultivator.*

To make good Black Ink.—Rasped logwood 1 oz., nutgall 3 oz.; gum Aarabic 2 oz., sulphate of iron (green copperas) 1 oz., rain water 2 quarts. Boil the water and wood together until the liquor is reduced one half; then add the nut-gall coarsely bruised, and when nearly cold add the copperas and gum; stir frequently for a few days, then let it settle—then pour it off and cork it up close in a glass bottle.—*Practical Farmer.*

To preserve Cabbage from worms.—Put powdered sulphur in a gauze bag, and shake it over every cabbage, morning or evening while the dew is on. A second application insures their destruction or speedy exit.

Sam. Reporter.

An excellent Pickle for Butter.—1 pail water—2 qts. fine salt—1-4 lb. loaf sugar—2 oz. salt petre well boiled and skimmed.—Cover the butter entirely with this pickle, and it will keep sweet the year round.

Broken skin.—Powdered charcoal made into a paste with water, and applied to any sore place, caused by the skin being rubbed off, will immediately allay the smart, and remove inflamation.

Hydrophobia.—A New York physician has discovered that a few drops of any mineral acid applied to the bite of any rabid animal, will prevent hydrophobia in the patient. The acid will decompose the poisonous saliva, and prevent, consequently, any injurious effects.—*N. Y. Express.*

To burn chimneys.—For the following receipt we are indebted to the Western Luminary—"For burning chimneys, throw *a half pint of whiskey* into the fire place."—We beg leave heartily to unite in this recommendation, even if it should not have the desired effect.—*D. Hoyt.*

To avoid Bee-moth.—Let your bee-house and hives be kept well white-washed, also the short boards on which each hive stands, particularly the under side; on each place two or three quarts of fine earth, one part salt mixed for the hive to rest upon. Change once or twice during the summer. I found good cause to abandon placing bees on the ground, as had been recommended 20 years ago.—*Cult.*

Avoid having anything to do with a speculation, in which many have already engaged.

TENNESSEE FARMER.

Jonesborough, October 1, 1838.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS—NO. I.

One of the most signal indications of the advancement of agriculture, at the present day, is the very great improvement which has been effected in the many implements which the husbandman uses in the very various labors of his vocation. Although the progress of this art has been emphatically slow, there certainly is some contrast in the improvements of the present age, and the practices of the primitive periods of the earth's history, when the plough was the forked branch of a tree tied to the horns of a cow, and the other implements of husbandry of like rude character and construction. Most of these improvements are labor-saving (or as a certain great man at the North would call them "labor-doing") machines of great value and efficiency; and the farmer who neglects their use, may in vain expect, other things being equal, to compete with the more enterprising member of the profession who enlists in his aid this, among other, available means of accomplishing the most labor with the least expense and loss of time.

The introduction of a number of these improvements into our State yet remains a desideratum of great importance—involving in fact some of the most valuable modern improvements in tilling the soil, and economizing the labors and the products of the farm.

It is true that, in this section of country, as an implement of the first importance, we have good ploughs. Many intelligent farmers in this region express the opinion that the original cast-iron Davis patent cannot be bettered, and that every modification of it (and they are almost without number) is so far ruinous of its good properties. There is no doubt that the introduction of this one implement, some 10 or 12 years ago, has greatly aided the advancement of our agriculture, and added, immensely, to the products and the improvement of the soil. This fact, we believe, is very generally admitted by our farmers, and forms an apt illustration of the propriety of introducing other improved implements which have been tested and approved in other sections of the country. These implements are numerous, and we propose noticing a few of them in this and a succeeding number. We instance, in the first place,

THE CULTIVATOR.

This implement is greatly esteemed in the Northern States, where it is deemed indispensable in working corn, roots, &c. It is also called "the horse hoe," from the fact that, admitting a near approach to the young corn, it is a partial substitute for hand-hoeing, that most tedious part of the labors of the corn crop. We should think this implement especially adapted to the hilly lands of this State. The deep furrows of the plough, on our hillsides, furnish every facility for the ruinous washings of our soil, which have so greatly impoverished large portions of our broken lands. The use of the cultivator, by leaving the surface of the soil more level after working (resembling more the work of the harrow than the plough) would go far to obviate this great evil in our present system of tillage. It is true that the corn-harrow, a very valuable substitute for the cultivator, is used to some extent in this section of country; and farmers who employ it in their corn crop know its great advantages in pulverising the soil and preventing its washing. The cultivator, however, will undoubtedly, do more effectual work; and we greatly desire to witness its general introduction among us.

As those of our readers who have not seen this implement, are no doubt generally well acquainted with it from description, it is unnecessary to describe it here. It might not be amiss, however, to add that great improvements have been made upon the original invention, one of which consists in its construction to expand and contract at pleasure, so as to adapt itself to crops planted at different distances in the row.

STRAW CUTTER.

We need an improved implement of this kind very greatly. True, every farm almost

in the State has its little cutting-box, which performs its work slowly and laboriously, and is endured only because comparatively little provender is cut up on the farm, and that little at intervals. A more perfect machinery would encourage the performance of more of this species of work on the farm, and the value of the provender fed to stock would be proportionably enhanced. Hay, fodder, corn stalks, straw, &c. are all greatly improved, as food for our domestic animals, by being chopped up. Some have even gone so far as to say, that provender is enhanced in value one half by subjection to this process. This, however, is an extravagant calculation; one-third, or one fourth would be the safer estimate. At any rate, few will be found to controvert the opinion that a great saving would be accomplished in this way, and the coarse provender on which we usually winter our cattle, rendered greatly more digestible and healthful.

A number of machines of this description have been patented and presented to the agricultural public. But the machine generally known as "Green's Straw Cutter," has the indisputable preference over them all. It is an American invention—greatly esteemed in this country, wherever tried, and has recently received a most flattering commendation in Great Britain—that land of highly finished farming implements. It cuts two bushels of hay per minute; feeds itself, and requires so little power to propel it, that astout boy can manage it. It can be had now, we believe, handsomely finished, in the Eastern cities, for about $30.

THE HORSE RAKE.

It is really surprising that this very simple and yet truly valuable article, is not in general use in this country. Some indeed, may think it a small affair, to notice under the the head of improved "Agricultural implements." Such, however, are generally the most useful, because the most practicable improvements; and, cheap and simple as it is, we doubt whether there is another implement on the farm, which, in proportion to its cost, accomplishes a greater economy of labor.

The Revolving Rake, is the more perfect article of the kind; but it is somewhat complex in its construction, and more costly than the common Horse Rake, which answers all ordinary purposes. A carpenter of common intelligence, if not the farmer himself, can, no doubt, construct one of the latter kind, by the following directions, which we derive from the Genessee Farmer:

THE COMMON HORSE RAKE,

Is made of a piece of strong scantling, 3 inches square and ten feet long, into which about fifteen teeth are inserted horizontally, and made of strong white ash or other tough wood. The teeth should be about 22 inches long, and one inch by one and three quarters at the place of insertion, and tapering on the under side, so as to give them a slight turn upward at the point, to prevent their running into the ground while using. The draught ropes are attached to the end of two projecting pieces of wood parallel to the teeth, at each end of the rake. These projecting pieces should be about one third of the length of the teeth. Those unskilled in the use of the rake, sometimes attach the ropes at once to the ends of the head, in this way it becomes almost entirely unmanageble. The forward ends of the draught ropes are to be fastened to the horse's collar, leaving space enough between the horse and rake for the collecting hay. Handles, are to be inserted in the head near the middle, for guiding the teeth and lifting the rake from the ground when necessary.

In using this rake, instead of the teeth moving onward upon their points as in the common hand rake, they run along flat upon the ground, passing under and collecting the hay; when full, the handles are thrown forward, the rake emptied, and lifted over the winrow for another load. The rake thus passes backwards and forwards across the field always emptying opposite the last heaps, and thus forming regular winrows at right angles with the path of the rake. A few hours practice will enable any one to use this rake without difficulty, the only skill required consisting in keeping the points of the teeth just so low as to pass under all the hay and yet not run into the ground. When small obstructions occur, the handles are depressed, thus causing the teeth to rise, and the rake passes freely over. Large obstructions, as stumps and stone heaps, require the rake to be lifted from the ground.

The chief recommendation of this kind of

rake is its cheapness and simplicity. A good one need not cost more than two dollars. It may also be used on rougher ground than the revolving rake, as it is more easily lifted over obstructions. Where the ground is very uneven the teeth should be much shorter. When one becomes well accustomed to the use of it, work may be done nearly as fast with this, as with a revolving rake, though much more laborious. Twelve acres of hay, part of it yielding nearly three tons to the acre, on a meadow of the writer, were raked into winrows, by means of one of these rakes, in about *six hours*, working time. It possesses another anvantage over the revolving rake—it may be used for scraping the winrows into heaps for drawing, and if the hay is stacked in the field, for drawing the hay to the stack. A man with a rake and horse, not only raked the hay, but drew it at the same time to the stack, a distance of from ten to twenty rods, as fast as an active man could pitch with a fork. A hand rake need scarcely ever be used on a meadow, as all the scattered hay may be raked up in a short time, after the rest of the hay has been drawn off.

The horse rake is very useful in raking stubble of wheat and eminently so in pulling and gathering peas.

Shafts, instead of ropes, have been attached to the head of the rake, and have been strongly recommended; but they diminish the simplicity of the rake, and appear to possess no advantage on the whole; and for gathering and drawing hay, are positively detrimental.

We design resuming this subject in our next number.

THE PREVAILING AVERSION TO AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.

We greatly admire the character of that enthusiastically bold and benevolent man, Felix Neff, missionary pastor of the High Alps, who labored so indefatigably, and indeed, fatally to his own health and life, in that bleak and stormy region, for the spiritual and temporal good of its simple-minded inhabitants. There is the high charm of romance thrown around the incidents of his Alpine life, especially when connected with the stirring remembrances of the blood of persecution so copiously shed, and the battles so gallantly fought for conscience sake among the glaciers, ravines and avalanches of those almost inaccessible heights, which were the daily scene of his pilgrimages and his labors.—It is not of these, however, that we would now speak. In the memoir of his life by W. S. Gilly, M. A. the following passage occurs:

"One of the principal resources of the valley of Fressiniere, is the breeding and pasturage of cattle. But the winter is so long, and and the tracts of land capable of producing fodder are so scanty, that every blade of grass that can be raised and made into hay, is a very treasure. A dry summer often left them unprovided with hay, and compelled the poor creatures to part with their stock at an inadequate price. Neff's eye perceived that a direction might be given to the streams in one part which would improve the ground in another, and furnish the proprietors with constant means to keep the grass fresh and moist. But he found the utmost difficulty in explaining to them the simplest principles of hydraulics, and in persuading his ignorant listeners that the water might be made to rise and fall, and might be dammed up and distributed, accordingly as it might be required for use. The imaginary expense stared them in the face like certain ruin; and the labor appalled them as perfectly insuperable. When their pastor first advised them to construct the canals necessary for the purpose, they absolutely refused to attempt it; and he was obliged to tell them, that they were equally deaf to temporal and spiritual counsel. Pointing to the rushing waters which were capable of being diverted from their course to the parched and sterile soil, which he wished to see improved, he exclaimed, 'you make as little use of those ample streams as you do of the water of life.—God has vouchsafed to offer you both in abundance, but your pastures, like your hearts, are languishing with drought.'"—p. 223—224.

There is a moral in the above incident which may not be inapplicable to the agriculture of our own highly favored land.—As the contour of the human countenance is alike in every clime and latitude, so also, the same want of reflection and enterprise, the same perverse blindness to his best interests, the same abject subjection to habit and reluctance, to novel exertion, are invariably visible in every tribe and community of un-

educated man. How many tillers of the soil are there, in this land of light and civilization, who exhibit just the same absurd terror of improvement in agricultural practice as the unreflecting grazier (if he may deserve the name) of the High Alps? And how many farms have we, which need the hand of skill and enterprise to redeem them from their "low estate," just as urgently as the little sterile patches of these mountain farmers? It is, indeed, a most lamentable reflection, that there are so many dwelling in the midst of us, who obstinately shut their eyes to the light which surrounds them—in their ignorance, contemptuously disregarding the motives which address themselves to the strongest passions of human nature, and turning away with unconcealed antipathy from the very sound of the term 'improvement!'

Those, also, who are endeavoring to produce a change in this state of things, and to ameliorate the agricultural practices of the land, may derive a useful hint from the subsequent progress of this enterprize of the Pastor of the Alps, and its final result.—Neff persisted with great tact, good temper and patience in his efforts to perfect his scheme; and when at last he had persuaded these simple people to set to work, the acqueduct was soon completed, and the water dashed into the parched meadows, "amidst the joyful shouts of workmen and spectators."—Experiencing the benefits of this and other judicious improvements which he suggested, in their agricultural practices, his disinterested labors for their good, were then fully appreciated, and he reigned triumphantly in their affections—whilst new resources seemed to have sprung up to these poor people, and a new aspect to have settled upon the face of the country.

So let the Agricultural papers and societies of the day, and all others who are endeavoring to elevate the agriculture of the land "not be weary in well-doing." The results of their labors will be seen in due time and they will then command that gratitude and consideration so justly due to their efforts, in the most important and honorable of all causes of a merely temporal character.—If those labors do not tell immediately upon the community, and produce entire and general reform, they will undoubtedly be instrumental in improving the practices of individual agriculturalists, whose example will aid in that general improvement, which, although slow in its progress, we may nevertheless, confidently anticipate. Let then "Improvement," still be the watchword of one and all—a word which has at least, *one* claim even upon those *who hate all change or novelty*; for although our farming is undoubtedly *rather better* than that of the poor dweller in the bleak Alps, still it is not perfect, and it will be a long long while, before any *change* of this spirit-stirring motto will be necessary.

THE DROUGHT.

The present has been the most unpropitious season for our Fall crops, we have had for many years. The Spring came in and continued unusually dry and cold, and when the corn crops seemed to have revived from this back-set, and promised to do well, the drought commenced and has continued almost uninterruptedly until within a fortnight past, when a copious shower fell—but was immediately succeeded by chilly cold weather and heavy frosts. Our small grain crops however, were abundant, thanks to the bounty of Providence! and no great apprehensions of any serious scarcity need be indulged.

SPRING WHEAT.

It will be remembered that we distributed, last spring, some Italian Spring Wheat, in small parcels, for experiment, among our subscribers. We should be glad to know the results in every case, and hope they will be communicated for insertion in the Tennessee Farmer.

☞A reply to enquiries relative to the preservation of roots through the winter, was prepared for this number, but crowded out, and shall appear in the next number.

From the Southern Agriculturalist.

PROGNOSTICS OF THE WEATHER.

MR. EDITOR—The subjoined prognostics of the weather have been taken from authors of approved experience, and in many instances of much learning. Many, indeed none of their works, have, as I believe, been republished in this country, for the editions from which I have drawn my information, are English.* This last conviction induces me to send you this article, which I had compiled for my own use. The space allotted prohibits me from giving the causes of the respective prognostics—in each instance, however, the prognostic can be explained by the laws of nature.

I. SIGNS FROM VAPORS OR MISTS.

1. If a white mist in an evening or night spread over a meadow wherein there is a river, it promises the next day to be bright.

2. When the mist hanging over the lower lands draws towards the hills of a morning, and rolls up their sides until the tops be covered, there will be no rain.

3. In some places, if the mist hangs upon the hills, and drags along the woods, instead of overspreading the lower, ground, in a morning, it will turn to rain.

4. If mists rise in low grounds, and soon vanish, fair weather.

5. If they rise to the hill tops, rain in a day or two. (One of Mr. Worlidge's rules.)

6. A general mist before the sun rises near the full moon; fine weather.

II. FROM CLOUDS.

1. It is a symptom of fair weather when clouds dissolve into air; otherwise when they are collected out of the air.

2. When heavy rains are about to fall, every cloud rises bigger than the former, and all the clouds are in a growing state.

3. When clouds are fleecy, deep, and dense towards the middle, and very white at the edges, with the sky very bright and blue about them, they are of a frosty coldness, and will soon fall either in hail, snow or hasty showers of rain.

4. When clouds breed high in the air in thin white trains, like locks of wool or the tails of horses, there will soon be wind below, and probably a rain with it.

5. When clouds as they come forward seem to diverge from a point in the horrizon, a wind may be expected from that quarter or the opposite.

6. When a general cloudiness covers the sky above, and small black fragments of clouds, like smoke, fly underneath, rain is not far off, and it will probably be lasting.

7. No surer sign of rain than two different currents of clouds, especially if the undermost flies fast before the wind: and if two such appear in hot summer, a thunder storm is gathering.

8. Clouds like large rocks; great showers.

9. If small clouds increase; much rain.

10. If large clouds decrease; fair weather.

11. In summer when the wind has been south two or three days, and it grows very hot, and clouds rise with white tops, like towers, as if one were on the top of another, joined together with black on the nether side, there will be thunder and rain suddenly.

12. If two such clouds rise one on either hand, rain.

13. Dappled white clouds, (called a mackerel sky) generally predict rain.

14. Small black clouds of a clear evening; undoubted signs of rain.

15. Blue or black clouds near the sun any time of the day, or near the moon by night; signs of rain.

16. Small waterish clouds on the tops of hills; rain.

17. If clouds grow or appear suddenly, the air otherwise free from clouds; tempests at hand, especially if they appear to the south or west.

18. Clouds setting on the tops of mountains; hard weather.

III. DEWS.

Dew plentifully on the grass after a fair day, foretells the next day fair; but if after such a day no dew is on the ground, and no wind stirring, rain may be expected.

IV. FROM SKIES.

1. Between a red evening and grey morning is commonly a heavy dew or a mist over the ground, but if a red morning succeeds, there is no dew.

2. When a lowering redness spreads too far upwards from the horison in the morning or evening, rain or winds follow, and often both.

3. When such a redness, together with a raggedness of the clouds, extends towards the zenith in the evening, the wind will be high from the west or south-west, with rain.

4. When the sky in a rainy season is tinged with a sea-green color, where it ought to be blue, the rain will continue and increase.

5. If it is of a deep dead blue, the weather will be showery.

6. A dark thick sky, lasting for some time, either without sun or rain, always becomes fair, then foul—that is, a clear sky before rain.

V. FROM SUN.

1. When the air is hazy, and the sun's light fades by degrees, and his orb looks whitish and ill defined; one of the most certain sighs of rain.

2. If the rays of the sun breaking through the clouds, irradiate and are visible in the air, rain soon.

3. White at his setting; bad weather.

4. Shorn of his rays; bad weather.

5. Going down into a bag of clouds which lie in the horizon; bad weather.

6. If he rise red and fiery; wind and rain.

7. If he rise cloudy, and clouds decrease; fair weather.

VI. FROM MOON.

1. When moon and stars grow dim, with a hazy air and ring or halo around it; rain follows.

2. If moon appear pale and dim, expect rain.

3. If red, a sign of wind.

4. If of its natural color, and the sky clear, fair weather.

5. If the moon is rainy throughout her course, it will clear up at the ensuing change, and the rain will probably commence in a few days after, and continue; if, on the contrary, the moon has been fair throughout, and it rains at the change, the fair weather will probably be restored about the fourth or fifth day of the moon, and continue as before.

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8. If discolored in the middle, storms are to be expected about the full, or about the wane, if her upper horn is affected in like manner,

9. When on her fourth day, she appers spotless, her horns unblunted, and neither flat nor quite erect, but betwixt both, it promises fair weather for the greatest part of the month.

10. An erect moon is generally threatening and unfavorable, but particularly denotes wind; though if she appear with short and blunted horns, rain may rather be expected.

VII. FROM WINDS.

1. When the wind veers about uncertainly to several points of the compass, rain is pretty sure to follow.

2. Some have remarked, that if the wind, as it veers about, follows the course of the sun, from the east towards the west, it brings fair weather: if the contrary, foul; but there is no sign of rain more infallible, than a whistling or howling noise of the wind.

3. Wind turning to north-east, continuing there two days, without rain, and not turning south the third day, or not raining the third day, will be likely to continue North-east for eight or nine days fair, and then come south again.

4. If it turn again out of the south to the north-east, with rain, and continue in the north-east, two days, without rain; and neither turns south nor rains the third day, it is likely to continue north-east two or three months.

5. After a northerly wind, for the most of two months or more, and then coming south, there are usually three or four fair days at first, and then on the fourth or fifth day comes rain, or else the wind turns north again and continues dry.

6. If it returns to the south within a day or two without rain, and turns northward with rain, and returns to the south in two or three days, as before, two or three times together after this sort, then it is likely to be in the south or south-west two or three months together, as it was in the month before.

7. Fair weather for a week with a southerly wind, is likely to produce a great drouth, if there has been much rain out of the south before. The wind usually turns from north to south with a quiet wind without rain; but returns to the north with a strong wind and rain. The strongest wind is, when it turns from south to north by west.

8. If you see a cloud rise up against the wind or with wird, when that cloud comes up to you, the wind will blow the same way the cloud came.

9. When the wind varies for a few hours, and afterwards begins to blow constant, it will continue for many days.

10. Whatever wind begins to blow in the morning usually continues longer than that which rises in the evening.

11. If the wind be east or north-east in the forepart of the summer, the weather is likely to continue dry; and if westward towards the end of the summer, then it will also continue dry.

From the Southern Agriculturalist.

PROGNOSTICS OF THE WEATHER.

MR. EDITOR—The subjoined prognostics of the weather have been taken from authors of approved experience, and in many instances of much learning. Many, indeed none of their works, have, as I believe, been republished in this country, for the editions from which I have drawn my information, are English.* This last conviction induces me to send you this article, which I had compiled for my own use. The space allotted prohibits me from giving the causes of the respective prognostics—in each instance, however, the prognostic can be explained by the laws of nature.

I. SIGNS FROM VAPORS OR MISTS.

1. If a white mist in an evening or night spread over a meadow wherein there is a river, it promises the next day to be bright.

2. When the mist hanging over the lower lands draws towards the hills of a morning, and rolls up their sides until the tops be covered, there will be no rain.

3. In some places, if the mist hangs upon the hills, and drags along the woods, instead of overspreading the lower, ground, in a morning, it will turn to rain.

4. If mists rise in low grounds, and soon vanish, fair weather.

5. If they rise to the hill tops, rain in a day or two. (One of Mr. Worlidge's rules.)

6. A general mist before the sun rises near the full moon; fine weather.

II. FROM CLOUDS.

1. It is a symptom of fair weather when clouds dissolve into air; otherwise when they are collected out of the air.

2. When heavy rains are about to fall, every cloud rises bigger than the former, and all the clouds are in a growing state.

3. When clouds are fleecy, deep, and dense towards the middle, and very white at the edges, with the sky very bright and blue about them, they are of a frosty coldness, and will soon fall either in hail, snow or hasty showers of rain.

4. When clouds breed high in the air in thin white trains, like locks of wool or the tails of horses, there will soon be wind below, and probably a rain with it.

5. When clouds as they come forward seem to diverge from a point in the horizon, a wind may be expected from that quarter or the opposite.

6. When a general cloudiness covers the sky above, and small black fragments of clouds, like smoke, fly underneath, rain is not far off, and it will probably be lasting.

7. No surer sign of rain than two different currents of clouds, especially if the undermost flies fast before the wind: and if two such appear in hot summer, a thunder storm is gathering.

8. Clouds like large rocks; great showers.

9. If small clouds increase; much rain.

10. If large clouds decrease; fair weather.

11. In summer when the wind has been south two or three days, and it grows very hot, and clouds rise with white tops, like towers, as if one were on the top of another, joined together with black on the nether side, there will be thunder and rain suddenly.

12. If two such clouds rise one on either hand, rain.

13. Dappled white clouds, (called a mackerel sky) generally predict rain.

14. Small black clouds of a clear evening, undoubted signs of rain.

15. Blue or black clouds near the sun any time of the day, or near the moon by night; signs of rain.

16. Small waterish clouds on the tops of hills; rain.

17. If clouds grow or appear suddenly, the air otherwise free from clouds; tempests at hand, especially if they appear to the south or west.

18. Clouds setting on the tops of mountains; hard weather.

III. DEWS.

Dew plentifully on the grass after a fair day, foretells the next day fair; but if after such a day no dew is on the ground, and no wind stirring, rain may be expected.

IV. FROM SKIES.

1. Between a red evening and grey morning is commonly a heavy dew or a mist over the ground, but if a red morning succeeds, there is no dew.

2. When a lowering redness spreads too far upwards from the horison in the morning or evening, rain or winds follow, and often both.

3. When such a redness, together with a raggedness of the clouds, extends towards the zenith in the evening, the wind will be high from the west or south-west, with rain.

4. When the sky in a rainy season is tinged with a sea-green color, where it ought to be blue, the rain will continue and increase.

5. If it is of a deep dead blue, the weather will be showery.

6. A dark thick sky, lasting for some time, either without sun or rain, always becomes fair, then foul—that is, a clear sky before rain.

V. FROM SUN.

1. When the air is hazy, and the sun's light fades by degrees, and his orb looks whitish and ill defined; one of the most certain sighs of rain.

2. If the rays of the sun breaking through the clouds, irradiate and are visible in the air, rain soon.

3. White at his setting; bad weather.

4. Shorn of his rays; bad weather.

5. Going down into a bag of clouds which lie in the horizon; bad weather.

6. If he rise red and fiery; wind and rain.

7. If he rise cloudy, and clouds decrease; fair weather.

VI. FROM MOON.

1. When moon and stars grow dim, with a hazy air and ring or halo around it; rain follows.

2. If moon appear pale and dim, expect rain.

3. If red, a sign of wind.

4. If of its natural color, and the sky clear, fair weather.

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11. If the wind be east or north-east in the forepart of the summer, the weather is likely to continue dry; and if westward towards the end of the summer, then it will also continue dry.

12. If in great rains the winds rise or fall, it signifies the rain will forthwith cease.

13. If the south wind begins for two or three days, the north will suddenly blow after it; but if the north blows for the same number of days, the south will not rise till after the east has blown for some time.

14. A change in the warmth of weather is generally followed by a change of wind.

VIII. METEORS.

When meteors, or the aurora borealis, appear after some warm day, it is generally succeeded by a coldness of the air.

IX. FROM ANIMAL CREATION.

Swallows, when they fly aloft after their prey, a serene sky—when they skim the ground or the water, rain not far off—their appearance a sign of spring set it. When the notes of the whippoorwil are heard, spring has set it—when sheep wind up the hills in the morning to their pastures, and feed near the top, an indication of the clearing of clouds, or drizzly weather—dogs grow sleepy and stupid before rain, and by refusing their food and eating grass, show their stomachs out of order—water fowl dive and wash themselves more than ordinarily before rain—flies are particularly troublesome, and seem more hungry than usual—toads are seen crawling across the road or beaten path in the evening—moles work harder than usual, and sometimes come forth; so do worms—ants are observed to stir and bustle about, and then return to their burrows—bees stir not far, and betake themselves to their hives—swine discover uneasiness, as do likewise sheep, cows, &c. all appearing more eager in pasture than usual—birds of all sorts are in action, and more earnest after their prey—fleas bite harder than common—spiders crawl abroad. On the contrary, spiders' webs on the trees, or in the air, indicate fair and hot weather—so do bees, when they fly far and come home late—likewise, a more than usual appearance of glow worms by night. If gnats play up and down in the open air, near sunset, they presage heat; if in the shade warm and mild showers: but if they join in stinging those that pass by them, cold weather and much rain may be expected. In men, frequently, aches, corns and wounds are more troublesome, either towards rain or frost. The crow cawing and walking alone on the seashore, or on the banks of rivers or pools, presages rain. Birds that change countries at certain seasons, if they come early, show the tempet of the weather, according to the country whence they came; as in winter, woodcocks, pigeons, &c., if they come early.

X. FROM VEGETABLE CREATION.

1. Most vegetables expand their flowers and down in sun-shiny weather, towards the evening; and against rain, close them again—as in the down of Dandelion. The rule is, if the flowers are close shut up, it betokens rain; if they are spread abroad; fair weather.

2. All wood, even the hardest and most solid, swells in moist weather.

3. The speedy drying of the earth's surface, is a sign of a northerly wind and fair weather; and its becoming moist, of a southerly wind, and rain.

4. When sounds are more plainly heard than usual, rain.

5. If wainscots or walls that used to sweat, be drier than usual in the beginning of winter, or the eaves of houses drop more slowly than ordinary, it portends a hard and frosty winter.

6 When there are but few nuts, cold and wet harvests generally follow; when a great show of them, hot, heavy and dry harvests succeed.

7. If the oak bears much mast, it presages a long and hard winter. The same of hops and haws.

XI. FROM RAINS.*

*It seems that in any given place, the quantity of rain falling one year with another, has been discovered to be the same, from which fact one might easily anticipate the seasons. This experiment has been tried in not less than thirteen places on the Continent. so as to confirm the rule for forty successive years.

1. Sudden rains never last long; but when the air grows thick by degrees, and the sun, moon, and stars shine dimmer and dimmer, it usually, rains six hours.

2. If it begins to rain from the south, with a high wind, for two or three hours, and the wind falls, but the rain continues, it is likely to rain twelve hours, or more; and does usually rain until a strong north wind clears the air; these long rains seldom hold above twelve hours.

3. If it begins to rain an hour or two before sun rising, it is likely to be fair before noon, and continue so that day; but if the rain begins an hour or two after sun rising, it is likely to rain all that day, unless the rainbow be seen before it rains.

XII. FROM SEASONS.

1. Generally a moist and cold summer portends a hard winter.

2. A hot and dry summer and autumn, es

especially if the heat and drought extend far into September, portend an open beginning of winter, and cold to succeed towards the latter part and beginning of spring.

3. A warm and open winter portends a hot and dry summer, for the vapors disperse into the winter showers: whereas cold and frost keep them in, and convey them to the late spring. So saith my Lord Bacon.

4. A severe autumn denotes a windy winter; a windy winter, a rainy spring; a rainy spring, a serene summer; a serene summer, a windy autumn; so that the air in a balance is seldom debtor to itself, nor do the seasons succeed each other in the same tenor for two years together. So also saith my Lord Bacon.

5. At the beginning of winter, if the south wind blow, and then the north, it is likely to be a cold winter; but if the north wind blow first and then the South, it will be a warm and mild winter. BARNWELL.

FATTENING HOGS.

On the first day of December four shoats of the same breed, nearly of a size, and as much alike in every respect as could be selected from a herd of ninety odd hogs, were made choice of; each carefully weighed, and placed in a single stye where their food could be exactly regulated. They weighed between 81 pounds and 100. The two whose weights together made 185 pounds, were fed on one gallon of shelled Indian corn weighing seven pounds to each, for every 24 hours, and as much water as they wanted. This quantity of food was a plenty for them; generally they about consumed it. Some five or six different days between the 1st of December and 4th of January, the time the experiment was going on, they did not eat their whole allowance.

For the two shoats, whose weights together made 173 pounds, seven pounds of good Indian corn meal, by measure, ten pints, were made into good mush, or hasty pudding, and divided between them for every twenty-four hours.—That is, these two had allowed them exactly half the weight of meal which the others had of raw corn. The seven pounds of meal were daily mixed with scalding water, and then well boiled; the whole process of cooking was done on an average in 1 1-2 hours. They were all fed twice a day and at the same time. The evening feed of the shoats fed on mush was generally warm—the morning feed, having stood all night, was generally cold. The seven pounds, or ten pints of meal, when cooked, weighed an average of thirty pounds, and measured an average of three gallons. There was a difference of nine pounds in the weight of the latter pair—the smallest had the least appetite, and his allowance of fifteen pounds of mush was just as much as he appeared to want or would eat up clean: the other was greedy, and always sharp set, dispatched his mess quickly, and wanted more.

Before the experiment had progressed a fort-night, there was a very perceptible difference in the appearance of these pigs. Those fed on the mush assumed a more thrifty, healthy, fresh appearance, particularly of their hair, and this difference became more striking as the experiment advanced.

On the 4th of January, while preparations were making for killing and dressing, they were again weighed on the hoof. One of those then whose daily allowance had been 7 pounds of corn each, had increased 20 pounds in the 34 days; the other, which had an equal allowance of corn, had increased only 5 pounds. I could not account for the difference by any thing I could discover, either before or after killing, the appetites of these two were much more alike than of the others; and their health was apparently equally good.

Of the pair fed on mush, whose daily allowance had been 3 1-2 pounds of meal each, the greedy one had gained 23 pounds and the other 21 pounds.

These are all the material facts in these experments, except that a very small portion of salt was put in each mess of mush—and there is no miracle in them. The hogs allowed 3 1-2 pounds each gained less than three-fourths of a pound daily, and this surely they might have gained from the meal; but they gained more than those fed on double that quantity of corn. The saving of one-half the immense quantity of corn consumed in raising and fattening hogs in Maryland, would be well worth the offer of a premium to have these experiments accurately repeated and tested by different persons.

[*Maryland Agr. Report.*

Remedy for the heaves in horses.—Take 1 1-2 lb. of good ginger for a horse. Give two table spoon-fulls a day—one in the morning and the other in the evening, mixt with wheat bran. This recipt has been selling at $5! to the east-ward—where the efficacy of the above medicine has been proved, in the cure of several cases of obstinate heaves.

Practical Farmer.

ORNAMENTAL CULTIVATION.

The 'clearings' in the forests were the chosen spots where the early settlers reared their humble habitations. Their ideas of beauty in the location of their dwellings, were made to conform to views of interest or of safety. The sun and air, the blessings most desirable, and accordingly every object was removed, every tree destroyed, which could interpose to shelter their roofs or gardens from their kindly influences. Besides when every bush or tree would serve to hide an enemy, they would naturally seek to place their families in situations where danger could be most easily foreseen and guarded against. A practice that in the outset was founded in necessity, has now become the prevailing taste of the people. Our houses are too frequently placed on the naked hill or the open plain, where they stand the monuments of the bad taste of our countrymen.—They present none of that cottage like appearance which a neat enclosure, a few trees and bushes judiciously planted would give them, and which constitutes one of the chief charms of rural scenery.

We wish our farmers could be induced to change their habits in this respect; to seek to ornament as well as improve their farms and dwelling; to make them pleasing objects to the eye of the stranger, as well as profitable to the owner; charming residences as well as happy homes. The people of New England are often charged with want of attachment to their native soil. They feel towards it little of that enthusiastic love so common to the people of other countries, which makes them regard a separation as the worst calamity that can befal them. One cause of this is undoubtedly their indifference to the beauties of nature. Natural scenery has ever been a stronger bond to unite men to their homes, than domestic ties or national institutions.—To improve it, to cultivate a taste for it, is worth the attention of every individual, for public considerations, not less than private gractification.

We are not the advocates of extravagant expenditures in ornamental cultivation.—Parks and lawns and hedges are beyond the means of most of our farmers, and cannot be united with profitable cultivaton. Our views of improvement are much more limited. Cottage scenery requires no magnificent parade or ostentatious display. Neatness and simplicity constitute its chief beauty, retirement its greatest charm. These attractions can easily be secured. The small enclosure before the door, shaded by the elm, ash or maple of our own forests, or made fragrant by the azalea or clethra from the swamps, would be made ornamental, than though filled with the rare and costly productions of other climes.—These and many others are hardy plants which require only a foothold in the soil, and to be protected from the depredations of man and animal, to thrive with more than native luxuriance.

We have often thought we could see a sneer upon the countenance of some of our hard working farmers at the bare mention of a flower. They seem to regard it as a mark of effeminacy to bestow care or labor on the cultivation of those beautiful, but as they think useless productions. We will recollect the almost indignation which a friend once manifested attending a sale of the beautiful plants of a green house, and seeing one sold for fifty cents, price of a bushel of his chenangoes. The thing seemed to him unaccountable, and he pronounced it a gross imposition upon the public. We imagined all the while, his thoughts were resting upon his own clover field at home, whose every blossom he deemed of more value than the useless plant so highly prized.

It is however, but a narrow view of things, to attach value only to what can be turned into gold. It is only desirable as a means to procure these very comforts and delights which we are endeavoring to show can be obtained without its agency. The season for transplanting trees and shrubs is now at hand. Let every one improve it to add beauty and value to that portion of the earth of which he is the inheritor. For the trifling expenditure of labor or money which is requisite, he will add fourfold to his estate, derive continued gratification from its improvement, and be entitled to the grateful recollections of those who may enjoy the shade from the trees which his hands have planted.

[*Worcester Ægis.*

From the Gennessee Farmer.

SOWING WHEAT.

Contrary to the usual course of things in Great Britain, the last winter was so unusually severe, that much of the wheat was frozen out and killed; and it was for a time feared that the crop would be reduced one third or one half. The fine wheat weather of May and June had, however, mostly dissipated these fears, though it was expected that heavy straw, and inferior grain would most likely be the result of such a rapid growth. The killing out of the wheat has awakened inquiry as to the best methods of

avoiding such an event; and an investigation of the causes which had led to the destruction of wheat in one field while in the plants mostly escaped, had been actively going on among the farmers. The general conclusion from the facts seem to be that the fields in which the seed was put in deep, either by the drill or by the plough, have resisted the frost far better than those in which the seed was put in shallow or merely covered by the harow, as is the common practice in our country. The following extract from a paper in the British Farm. Mag., by Mr. Hillyard, one of the most thorough farmers in England, will show his opinion on the subject. As one of the most serious obstacles to the growth of wheat in many parts of our country is its freezing out, it might be well for our farmers in such sections to make a few experiments in putting in their wheat the coming fall, deep, or otherwise, and mark the result.

"All my wheat was *drilled in four inches deep*: had others put theirs in the same depth, I feel assured there would not now have been so many defective crops; and I will now state one circumstance they may induce others to be of my opinion. At the end of one of the bouts of my drilling machine, the guider of it discovered that he had gone many yards with so little seed in it, that some of the pipes had not sown; where they had not, drills were made with a hoe, and seeds was put in; but from its not being put in above half the depth of the other, the grain which came up has disappeared." He adds, if the weather should prove favorable in June and July, "I shall very likely have abundance of straw, with a short quantity of an inferior quality of grain. I regret having this year omitted my usual practice of eating my wheat crops off early in the spring with sheep, to prevent having a superabundance, of straw."

PIG TROUGH.

This important piece of *Stye-hold* furniture is most commonly made by digging out a piece of a log or timber into a square box. We find many objections to this mode. In the first place it is too much work—and in the next place they are easily overset, and in the third place they do not last so long as they would if made in the way we are about to describe.

A writer in the Genesee Farmer, a few years ago, described a method of making this article, which we copied into the Maine Farmer, and which we have also practiced, and find to be a great improvement.

It is simply this. Take two pieces of board or plank of the length that you wish your trough; put two of there edges together at right angles, thus V, and nail them strong. Then take two pieces something longer than the trough is wide and nail upon the ends. Then take some clay mortar and fill up the chinks to prevent its leaking, and it is done. The food settles down in the angle at the bottom of the trough, and the pig will *fay* his sharp under jaw into it completely, while the long ends prevent its being upset so easily as the old kind. Any body who can saw a board off, and drive a nail, can make one. If you have no trough for your pig, just try your hand at making one on this plan.

Gen. Farmer.

PRESERVATION OF APPLES.

The following practical observations, contained in a letter from Noah Webster, Esq., have been published in the Massachusetts Agricultural Repository.

It is the practice of some persons to pick apples in October, and first spread them on the floor of an upper room. This practice is said to render apples more durable, by drying them. But I can affirm this to be a mistake. Apples, after remaining on the trees as long as safety from the frost will admit, should be taken directly from the trees to close casks, and kept dry and cool as possible. If suffered to lie on the floor for weeks, they wither and lose their flavor, without acquiring any additional durability. The best mode of preserving apples for spring use, I have found to be, the putting of them in dry sand as soon as picked. For this purpose, dry sand in the heat of summer, and late in October put down the apples in layers, with a covering of sand upon each layer. The singular advantages of this mode of treatment are these: 1st, the sand keeps the apples from the air, which is essential to their preservation. 2d, the sand checks the evaporation of the apples, thus preserving in them their full flavor—at the same time any moisture yielded by the apples, (and some there will be,) is absorbed by the sand; so that apples are kept dry, and all mustiness is prevented.—My pippins in May and June, are as fresh as when first picked; even the ends of the stem look as if just separated from the twig.

The cotton crops in Mississippi are said to be in a promising condition, notwithstanding the drought. The corn crop is not promising.

Affectation in wisdom often prevents our becoming wise.

EXTRACT

From an address delivered before the agricultural Society of Giles County on the 2nd July, 1838, by Hon. T. M. BRAMLETT.

It has been justly remarked by Mr. Channing, "one of the most remarkable features of our age, is the energy which the combination of action, by joint forces by associated members, is manifesting itself." It may be said, without much exaggeration that everything is done now by Societies. Men have learned that wonders can be accomplished by union, and seem to think it is competent to every thing. That this mode of action has advantages and recommendations is obvious. Men it is justly said can do jointly what they cannot do singly. The union of minds and of hands can work wonders. Men grow efficient by concentrating their powers; united effort conquers nature, hews through mountains, rears pyramids, dikes out the ocean. Man, left to himself, living without a fellow, if indeed he could so live would be one of the weakest creatures. Associated with his kind, he gains dominion over the strongest animals, over the earth and sea, and by his growing knowledge, may be said to obtain a sort of property in the universe." Many of the prejudices which existed against associations have justly subsided, and their importance in many instances has been seen and felt and it is now a point no longer controverted by the best informed part of the community that they do; and will continue to exist in great numbers and for many practical purposes.

I should not fail to mention another means which has proved to be a very powerful auxilliary to England in arriving so early to that high state of perfection in agriculture and stock raising. I have a direct allusion in this remark to her boards or societies to promote the science of Agriculture and breeding and feeding of cattle, some of which were supported out of the Exchequer. These boards or societies were composed of men of science, well skilled in the useful arts, and many of them highly gifted in native genius, and thoroughly skilled in all the lore, both of ancient and modern literature. The use and employment of the members composing these societies was the collecting and diffusing useful information, and enabled by *premiums* to encourage and assist a spirit of improvement. This species of establishment doubly contributed to the increase of improvement by stimulating to enterprise and experiment and by drawing to one common focus the results of individual skill and observation. The united experience of both England and America shew that they are the cheapest modes of acquiring these immense benefits. Besides the happy results to England and her dependencies, already mentioned, others, to her the most valued, and to use should be the most humiliating in their character, yet remain to be stated. In looking over the last annual report of the National Treasury, we are met with these astonishing facts: That during the last year our exports of bread stuffs fell short of the customary amount nearly one million of dollars; while the imports increased more than four and a half millions of dollars!! making a difference in the business of the country, in one year in a single article of five and a half millions of dollars; that during the same year the price of bread stuffs were increased 80 per cent.

THE CULTURE OF WHEAT.

The following is the concluding part of an excellent article from the Baltimore Farmer and Gardener. The parts omitted relating to the proper manures for wheat—preparation of the soil, &c., come rather too late now for practical application this season. We commend the extract below to the attention of our readers, with the remark that there is a practical good sense about the editorial articles of the Farmer and Gardener—which evinces the writer's personal experimental knowledge of the propriety of those practices which he recommends to others.

PREPARATION OF THE SEED.

All extraneous bodies and substances should be carefully separated from the kernels of the wheat. All *weed-seed* may be separated by means of a riddle or sieve. After being winnowed, let the grain be thrown into vessels of clean water, in small parcels, and thoroughly washed. Stir the grain well and skim off all floating substances.—After it is thus washed and cleaned, put it into a pickle made so strong of salt as to float an egg: in this it should remain from 24 to 48 hours, then strain it off through baskets, and to every bushel of wheat add 2 quarts of fresh powdered lime, (slacked,) and one of Plaster of Paris: mix the lime and plaster thoroughly with the wheat; after which it should be dried and sown as speedily thereafter as possible, though it will not injure by remaining a day or so, provided it be not kept in too great bulk.

There are other *soaks* strongly recommended—as

Solutions of Copperas,
" " Blue-stone;

Ley of Wood ashes;
" Potash,
Lime water, (cold);
Solution of Arsenick;
" " Nitre; and
Boiling water.

But the one we have first named, we believe, will be found most convenient and equally salutary.

QUANTITY OF SEED TO THE ACRE.

Less than 6 pecks to the acre we think should not be sown, and under peculiar contingencies we should not hesitate to sow from 2 to 2 1-2 bushels.

If the ground be good, well prepared by deep ploughing and thorough harrowing, and the seed be put in early, six pecks to the acre will be enough, as under such circumstances the loss from the failure of the seed to vegetate, and the freezing out of the plants, will be much less than if sown late.

If the ground be not good, and the seeding late, allowance should be made for the loss of seed by the causes before alluded to; for it is a fact that a much greater quantity of seed grain perish in poor than in rich ground, and it is equally true, that a much greater amount of growing grain is lost when sown late than when put in early. Allowances for these things should always be made; nor should the farmer be inattentive to the fact that the kernel of some wheat is much larger than those of others, in which latter case an allowance should also be made, as a bushel of such wheat contains a much less number of kernels than the smaller kind.

TIME OF SOWING.

The best time of sowing, we believe to be from the 1st of September till the 1st of October: many persons recommend both earlier and later periods of sowing than either of these, but all things considered we believe those we have named the best.

GENERAL REMARKS.

We have no doubt in our mind that in many instances too little wheat is sown, and hence it is that the wheat fields are mostly covered with worthless weeds, which while they extract the substance from the earth and thus rob the wheat of its food do not in the least benefit either the soil or its owner. Hence it is that we have always been the advocate of heavy seeding and of sowing clover seed on all grain fields as early in the spring as practicable. By the occupancy of the soil with grass plants the growth of weeds is excluded in a great degree, and when the wheat is ripe, your ground will have a covering to protect it from the scorching rays of the sun.

The drought still continues in this quarter, and as far as we learn extends over at least three-fifths of the states of the union, and it is but fair to infer that wherever it reaches, the crops of corn, potatoes, pumpkins, turnips and other roots, will be short. Such being the case we hope we will be excused for offering a few words of advice to our agricultural brethren. It will be obvious to all who will reflect upon the subject, that, although the crops of artificial grasses were good, owing to the deficiency in the yields of the products we have named, cattle feed must in the course of the approaching winter and spring be comparatively scarce in several of the States. Under such circumstances, it becomes important that whatever can be converted into provender, should be husbanded for that purpose. In England, in years of scarcity, many weeds which we look upon in the light of pests are cut down and made to contribute towards the support of the tenants of the barn-yard, and indeed, we have known some provident farmers in this country equally attentive to the comfort of their stock. The weed known as *Rag-weed*, which almost invariably springs up in the stubble-field, if cut when in seed before it gets too tough, and cured properly, makes a food which is very readily eaten by cattle. The way to cure it is this. After it is cut down and remained long enough to become a little wilted, it should be thrown into small cocks, which should be turned and shaken out for two or three days in succession, when, if the weather be dry, it may be packed away for winter use. In packing it a peck and a half of salt should be strewed between the layers. When cured in this way, we speak practically when we say, that it makes a hay by no means unacceptable to cattle, and that although it is not as nutritious as timothy, clover, herds, orchard or some other of the artificial varieties introduced into the hay culture, it answers an excellent purpose in appeasing hunger and keeping stock fed on it in good heart, and is worth the expense and trouble of cutting and curing at any time, and especially so in seasons of scanty supply. Besides the benefits which the cattle would derive, any fields of *young* clover from which the rag weed might be taken would be much benefitted in the degree of exemption from weeds thereby ensured to its growth the ensuing season, and the value of the hay greatly enhanced.

Farm. & Gard. of Sep. 1.

Strong facts in regard to Horse Racing.—A writer in the Louisville city Gazette, thus tersely presents this matter:

"Races it is said improve the breed of horses. And what if they did, if they degrade the breed of men. But I doubt the truth of the position. Some few startling or stubborn facts are on the other side. I never heard of races in Arabia, yet the best horses and the best blood in the world are there. The great racing stock of England and America, came from the blood of the Godolphin Arabian. There are no races in New England, yet the New England horses are worth in this country from fifty to a hundred per cent. more than Southern horses. The horses for the plough, dray, stage, coach, or gig, in New England, would bring under the hammer far higher prices in racing sections of the country, than their own horses. Racing only improves the breed of race horses.—I was told in Virginia, by the stage drivers that their best horses are brought from Vermont and New Hampshire; the Green Mountain horses are the best in the country for symmetry, strength, fleetness and endurance. Yet there is no racing in New England.—Racing, then, is surely not essential to make good horses."

INFLUENCE OF GOOD EXAMPLE.

One of the most decided improvements in farming which the age has witnessed, is the conversion of the produce of our orchards into pork, instead of converting it into poison by distillation; and we are happy to see that this example which this country was the first to set, is likely to be extensively followed. The reports on English agriculture, given in the British farming periodicals, give numerous instances in which apples were used for making pork in that country; and ample credit for the suggestion is given to the agriculture and temperance periodicals of this country. We have been assured by well informed Englishmen, that one of the most serious obstacles the friend of good order was there obliged to encounter, was to be found in the excessive quantities of cider made and drank in some parts of that Island. We are pleased to hear that a reform in that respect has commenced, and there can be no doubt that in most cases a good, fat pig would more efficiently contribute to the comfort of a family, than would a hogshead of cider; certain we are that such has been the result here, and we believe will be every where, where the experiment shall be fairly tried.

Genesee Farmer.

RELIGION.

We pity the man who has no religion in his heart—no high and irresistible yearning after a better and holier existence—who is contented with the sensuality and grossness of earth—whose spirit never revolts at the darkness of its prison house; nor exults at the thought of its final emancipation. We pity him because he affords no evidence of his high origin, no manifestation of that intellectual prerogative, which renders him the delegate lord of the visible creation. He can rank no higher than animal nature—the *spiritual* could never stoop so low. To seek for beastly excitements—to minister with a bountiful hand to depraved and strong appetites—are the attributes of the animal alone. To limit our hopes and aspirations to this life, and this world, is like remaining forever in the place of our birth without ever lifting the veil of the visible horizon which bent over our infancy.

There is religion in every thing around us; calm and holy religion in the unbreathing things of nature, which man would do well to imitate. It is a meek and blessed influence stealing in as it were, upon the heart. It comes quietly and without excitement. It has no terror—no gloom in its approaches. It does not rouse up the passions; it is untrammelled by the creeds and unshadowed by the superstitions of men—It is from the hands of the Author, and glowing from the immediate presence of the great spirit, which pervades and quickens it. It is written on the arched sky. It looks from every star. It is on the sailing clouds and in the invisible wind. It is among the hills and valleys of the earth—where the shrubless mountain pierces the thin atmosphere of the eternal winter—or where the mighty forest fluctuates before the strong wind, with its dark waves of green foliage. It is spread out like a legible language upon the broad face of the unsleeping ocean. It is the poetry of nature. It is that which lifts the spirit within us, until it is tall enough to overlook the shadows of our place of probation—which breaks, link after link, the chains which bind us to materiality, and opens to our imagination a world of spiritual beauty and holiness. [J. G. Whittier.

SLANDER. Although the Deaf and Dumb may mourn the deprivation of speech, yet they escape all that vexatious bickering produced by the tattling of their more social neighbors: verifying the adage, that "there is no great loss but what there is some small gain."

Payments to Tennessee Farmer, from the 31st of August to the 27th Sept., 1838.

T. Rogers, $1 50; W. Gentry, 5 75; W. S. Webb, 1 25; P. Anderson, 5; A. Simpson, 1; Dr. J. W. Conner, 1; J. Stewart, 1; J. A. Macklin, 1; J. Stephenson, 1; D. Saddler, jr. 1; S. Speer, 1; N. Shelly's adm'r, 4 50; J. Ainsworth, 4 50; S. S. Glenn, 1 45; W. B. Lenoir, 50c; M. Powel, 1; B. Winton, 2 50; B. Browder, 1; T. Lenoir, 1; G. W. Foute, 1 50; J. Coulter, 1 50; A. R. Royell, 1; W. G. Harding, 5 50; W. A. Cook, 4; H. M. Nish, 4; F. B. Fogg, 2 50; O. B. Hays, 2 50; Col. J. Baker, 4; J. L. Coleman, 3; W. Bryant, 2; A. Cooper, 2; W. McClain, 4 50; G. Gregory, 50c; R. Guathney, 2; E. Hill, 3; W. J. Lumpkin, 3; R. J. Campbell, 1; J. Kinser, 4 50.

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